

## United States Senate

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### GRIZZLY BEAR HEARING - 10/3/97

**Hello, my name is Betsy Allen. I am Senator Burns' Helena Field Representative. Senator Burns could not be here tonight, however he wanted me to make you aware of the current status of the Interior Appropriations bill. The specific language reads:**

**"None of the funds in this or any other Act shall be expended by the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service or any other Federal agency, for the introduction of the grizzly bear population in the Selway-Bitterroot area of Idaho and adjacent Montana, or for consultations under Section 7(b)(2) of the Endangered Species Act for Federal actions affecting grizzly bears within the Selway-Bitterroot area of Idaho, except that, funds may be used by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, or any other Federal agency for the purpose of receiving public comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement dated July 1997, issuing a record of decision, and for conducting a habitat-based population viability analysis."**

**Again, it is important to reiterate, that the Interior bill, as it stands now, contains NO funding for grizzly bears. I also wanted to share with you a short note from Conrad.**

**"The study commissioned by the Fish and Wildlife Service said going forward without a habitat-based population viability assessment is pointless. I agree with the study, that's why we are giving them the funds to conduct the assessment."**

**"It has never been my goal to halt the EIS process, only to halt the introduction of these bears until the Fish and Wildlife Service tells us whether the habitat can support them, in a study they themselves asked for."**

**"Moving forward with the reintroduction without this study is unfair to people and it's unfair to the bears."**

**Thanks again for this opportunity to include my comments in the public record.**